



# countdown

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## Work on orbiters continues through holiday week



◆ **Shuttle Update:** On **Discovery**, tile is being reworked this week on the crew module hatch. On **Endeavour**, the tail cone and payload were removed. Inspections are under way and scheduled work includes waterproofing.

◆ **ELV Update:** Due to the availability of the Western Range at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the launch of NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory, or OCO, was rescheduled to Feb. 23. A new schedule of spacecraft and launch vehicle processing is currently being developed to support that date.

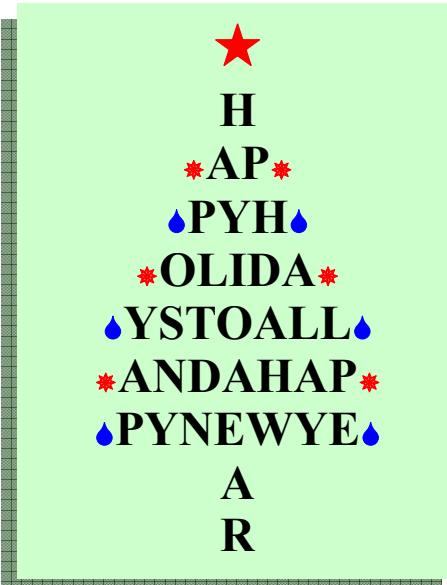
The work to prepare the OCO spacecraft for launch has gone well. Fueling the spacecraft is expected to occur during the week of Jan. 12.

Testing and prelaunch preparations continue on the Taurus launch vehicle by Orbital Sciences in Hangar 1555.

Stacking of the Delta II rocket at Space Launch Complex 2 for the NOAA-N Prime launch Feb. 4 is complete, and the mechanical checkout and electrical testing are under way.

NOAA-N Prime spacecraft electrical testing continues this week. During a previous test, a Zener diode associated with solar array temperature telemetry data received a brief burst of high current causing it to short circuit.

Potential sources of this anomaly are under evaluation to determine whether it was from the solar array, its associated electrical harness, or from the spacecraft bus. It is important to understand the root cause of this problem to ensure full spacecraft mission success while in orbit.



Engineers are working to understand the reason for this problem and determine a course of action.

■ **2009 KARS Park Membership Drive** — The 2009 KARS Park Membership card will be available for purchase at the following dates and locations: January 5: OSB I Lobby from 9 a.m. to noon and the SSPF Lobby from 1 to 4 p.m.; January 6: ARF Lobby from 9 a.m. to noon and the OSB II Lobby from 1 to 4 p.m.; Jan. 7: HQ Lobby from 9 a.m. to noon and the O&C Lobby from 1 to 4 p.m. For further information, please call Annette Myers at 867-0431.

■ **University Of Miami Graduate Certificate In Project Management** — This certificate will prepare you to effectively manage projects to completion on time, under budget and within scope. No

## OCO launch moved to Feb. 23

GRE or GMAT is required. Courses provide full credit toward the Master of Science degree in Management of Technology, or MSMOT.

Apply now for the spring semester. For more information and to receive an application and brochure, please call Augusto Roca, program administrator, at 1-305-284-4100 or send an e-mail to: [augusto@miami.edu](mailto:augusto@miami.edu).

■ **Reminder** — The PM Challenge invites internal NASA organizations to exhibit this year. Space is still available. Check out the PM Challenge Web site at: <http://pmchallenge.gsfc.nasa.gov>. For more information, please contact JoAnn Carter at: [JoAnn.M.Carter@nasa.gov](mailto:JoAnn.M.Carter@nasa.gov).

■ **NASA Science** — NASA's five THEMIS spacecraft have discovered a breach in Earth's magnetic field 10 times larger than anything thought to exist. The size of the opening and the strange way it forms could overturn long-held ideas of space physics. Read the full story at: [http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/16dec\\_giantbreach.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/16dec_giantbreach.htm).

■ **Reminder** — *Countdown* will not be published between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1 but you may continue to send news items to [anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov](mailto:anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov). The first issue of 2009 will be Jan. 6. Please see the regular deadline schedule below.

*Countdown* is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov](mailto:anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: [http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown\\_toc.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html).